

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



**Dean's Message:**

I'm writing this on Halloween morning, while recovering from the annual Halloween concert we present here at South Congregational Church Springfield which happened yesterday. It is not strictly an organ concert, although the organs did play in almost half of the program. There was also singing, both solo and choral, and works for other instruments. However, the organ was featured, and there was an audience of respectable size including many who are not regular churchgoers. That got me thinking about our efforts as a guild to continue to expose and promote the public at large to the pipe organ. I think it is safe to say that most of us are seeing much smaller congregations on Sunday mornings than in the past, so it is often through these special events that we do some of our most effective pro-

motion. Sometimes the average person will hesitate to go to an event that is called an organ recital, but they might be more drawn to a different kind of event that also happens to have organ playing in it. They may then be more inclined to attend an actual organ concert.

Am I implying that some of you should stop presenting organ concerts or promoting them as such? No, but you might start thinking about other events that you could present, or those that already happen at your church that might benefit from a little music in the form of organ playing. Lots of people hear the organ at Trinity Church Springfield during the Boar's Head performances, but obviously we all are not in a position to present a Boar's Head Festival. I don't think Becky would appreciate that anyway. However, do you host smaller events at your church, like rummage sales, blessing of animals or community celebrations? Might folks be walking about your facility and be drawn to enter your sanctuary if they heard organ music from within? This is just food for thought. Some of you may have these opportunities and others may not, but you may in the future.



**Dean: Larry Picard**

**Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson**

**Directors:**

**Michael Carney**

**Sheila Heady**

**Karen Banta**

**Joseph DiMarino**

**Karen Ducharme**

**David Kidwell**

**James Barnes,  
Treasurer**

**Martha Sienkiewicz,  
Secretary**

**Rev. William H. Wallis,  
Chaplain**

Speaking of walking around churches, our Veteran's Day organ crawl of instruments in Springfield and Worcester is coming right up on Friday, November 11. We will be joined by the Berkshire Chapter, and the day begins at 9 a.m. when we meet for a continental breakfast at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield. This will be followed by a tour of the three major organs right there in that area, St. Michael's, Christ Church Cathedral, and South Congregational Church. At 11:30 we're off to Worcester where we will meet Worcester chapter members at 12:30 for lunch at the Oak Barrel restaurant. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the complete schedule for the afternoon. Please contact me if you plan to attend so I can let the Worcester Chapter know how much space to reserve at the Oak Barrel for lunch. [Lpicard@sococh.org](mailto:Lpicard@sococh.org) or 413-348-3729. You may decide to go at last minute, which is fine, but you may have to make other arrangements for lunch if the space is full at the Oak Barrel. A few other chapters in Massachusetts and Connecticut are also participating, so we expect a crowd. I hope to see you on the 11th of November.

Larry Picard

Sunday, November 13: The Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus presents "The Voice Out of the Whirlwind," a program of music by Copland, Rachmaninoff, Schubert and more, at Wesley United Methodist, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley. Directed by Jonathan Harvey and accompanied on the organ and piano by Larry Picard. Tickets are \$28, senior/student \$20, children \$7. [www.pvsoc.org](http://www.pvsoc.org).

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Nov 30 Wed Noon – Co-sponsored Worcester Organ Concert at Mechanics Hall – "All that Holiday Jazz" Hook Organ with WPI Jazz Ensemble; broadcast live on WICN

- Friday, January 6 - **12th Night Social Event**, casual

- May  
15 Monday 7PM **Scholarship Recital**

- *To Be Finalized soon:*  
Saturday 10AM **Pedals, Pipes and Pizza** (invite your piano and organ students (and yourself!), all ages) – Intro to the Pipe Organ

- Other co-sponsored organ concerts being planned at: **Assumption (Spring), St Joe's, 1<sup>st</sup> U, Trinity & All Saints** (Febr Lenten series)

First Church of Monson will be holding a dinner and concert on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 5 P.M. Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet will be entertaining for the evening. They are the best known musicians playing "sacred jazz" in the United States. Formed in 1993 by pianist Bill Carter, a Presbyterian minister, the consort of New York based professionals have toured the country extensively in presenting concerts and jazz worship services. In addition to Bill Carter, the primary composer for the group, the core members of the ensemble include saxophonist Al Hamme, bassist Tony Marino, and drummer Ron Vincent. Check them out at their website [www.presbybop.com](http://www.presbybop.com). The Music Committee will be preparing a dinner of fruit cup, baked ham, roasted rosemary potatoes, salad, rolls, and raspberry dream cake for dessert. Cost for the evening is a \$25.00 donation for dinner and the concert and \$10.00 for the concert alone. The concert begins at 7 P.M. For reservations, please call Mary Newland at 413-267-3219 or e-mail [menewland@yahoo.com](mailto:menewland@yahoo.com).

**An Appeal from Isabelle Demers and the Committee on the New Organist (CONO)**

CONO is a newly formed committee whose primary goal is to provide pianists and entry-level organists (“new organists”) with educational resources that will enable them to increase their skill level at the organ. Like many of you, we are concerned by diminishing numbers in the AGO and the organ world in general, and by the dearth of organists in smaller communities. Our work will encompass a variety of mediums, including social media, but today I’m writing with a simpler request.

One of our first goals is to create a list of organ teachers per region/area, including people willing to teach via Facetime, Skype, or other lesson types. To that extent, could you ask your members to fill out the following table? It goes without saying that they should only include information that they feel comfortable sharing (for example, listing their work phone number or email if they are worried about online privacy).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (work, AGO Chapter) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief vitae (education, work) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info (email, phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to offer a few (3) pro bono lessons to beginners? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you comfortable teaching using Skype, Facetime, or other new mediums? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All Springfield Chapter members who are interested in participating should send the completed forms to Martha Sienkiewicz at [martha@sienkiewicz.org](mailto:martha@sienkiewicz.org).

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts

PRESENTS

## “THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Suggested Donation \$10.00

OCTOBER 16, 2016

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

**MICHAEL T.C. HEY, organ**

**ADASKIN STRING TRIO**



A Juilliard School graduate and Assistant Director of Music and Organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, will be playing J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and Mozart.



The trio, currently based in New England and originally from Canada, will play works by Alexis Roland-Manuel, Michael White, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

MARCH 26, 2017

**SIRENA HUANG, violin**

**PATRICIA SNYDER, organ**

This Taiwanese-American concert violinist, a rising star, performs world-wide to critical acclaim, having had her early training at Hartt College in Hartford and Juilliard School in NYC.



**PI-HSUN SHIH, piano**



She enjoys a versatile career as soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher at the Hartt College in Hartford. A featured soloist with many symphony orchestras, she and Ms. Huang will play Stravinsky, Isaye, Ravel, and Wieniawski.

Director of Music Ministry at Storrs Congregational Church on the UConn campus, she has taught organ at Mt. Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass, Amherst. She will play music by Bach, Böhm, Vierne, and Wammes.

JEAN PITMAN TURNER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 413-774-2657

The First Church Concert in Deerfield featuring Michael Hey

Michael  
Hey



Michael Hey and Jean Pitman Turner



**Old First Church Concert—Larry Picard, Lad Pfeifer, and Will Lucardi**



From left to right:  
Larry Picard,  
Lad Pfeifer,  
And  
Will Lucardi.



## POE REPORT FOR TOA

The 2016 Springfield POE started with a simple email address, the [greatestpoe@aol.com](mailto:greatestpoe@aol.com). That address may now be defunct, but for 26 aspiring organists, faculty, and staff it was the Greatest POE. On the final day, July 15<sup>th</sup>, there were cries of “Do I have to leave?” and “Can’t we keep doing this for another week?”.

From the start Springfield wanted to host an enjoyable POE that would strike the right balance between fun activities, free time, classes, practice, and exploration of the organ. The ice breaking activities began with the ‘early arrival’ treasure hunt, the brainchild of Martha Sienkiewicz, the official House Mother of the POE. Early arrivals went off in pairs to discover Smith College and the adjoining town of Northampton, MA.

Chase House was the official residence of the POE. It was built in 1827 as a grand residence for a very well heeled lawyer and politician. This impressive New England home was later acquired by Smith College and housed our POE in style.

The Episcopal Church of St. John hosted our opening convocation. Bach’s Prelude in E-flat, "St. Anne", played by Dr. Grant Moss opened this event. We were fortunate to have Regional Councilor, Cheryl Deurr, present to address the students and faculty with opening remarks highlighting the aspirations of the AGO for those present. Fr. William Wallis, AGO Chaplain, not only offered prayers and blessings for our week activities, but also insights into his personal relationship with the organ throughout his life. Ladislav Pfeifer, POE Director, spoke about the message of hope that music brings and encouraged students to pursue the organ as bearers of that hope. After the singing of the hymn ‘For The Beauty Of The Earth’ and the final blessing, Grant provided a dazzling postlude with Widor’s Final from the Second Symphony.

After a Pizza Feast in the St. John’s undercroft, Becky Rosendahl Isaacson really broke the ice and had everyone smiling wide while engaged in ringing hand bells. Becky, an extremely accomplished hand bell director has a personality that is just a hoot! Students immediately related to her enthusiasm and abundant wit. Afterwards, Peter Krasinski, in his engaging way presented the students with an introduction to the organ that just seemed to continue all week.

The opening night drew to a close celebrating compline in St. John's sanctuary with students singing hymns and chanting the psalms. Griffin McManhon, who attended a Springfield POE as a student in 2007, gave his heartfelt personal reflection to the students during the service. He also provided a fabulous introduction to American organ music with his prelude, "At The Ballet" from 5 Dances for Organ of Calvin Hampton. Griffin’s postlude was a far cry from traditional quiet and reflective compline postludes. He chose to have the students gather round the console for an heroic performance of the Easter Sequence “Victimae Paschali Laudes” by Charles Tournemire, a real tour de force. After such inspiring organ playing by Grant and Griffin, students were impatient for Monday morning to arrive and to have their lessons begin!

Following compline everyone gathered for a make your own sundae ice cream social. Having a fun and captivating opening night was certainly the great springboard into a week that just kept getting better.

In addition to Martha and her years of experience with young adults, the POE was also very fortunate in having four faculty members residing with the students, sharing meals, stories, insights and providing extra teaching moments. Staying with the students as chaperones were Bill Degan, Peter Krasinski, Griffin McMahon and Ladislav Pfeifer. Each had their own individual contribution to student life throughout the week. Bill while serving as one of the van drivers had his group constantly singing the travel time away when not challenging kids to go jogging at 6:00AM. Griffin had everyone in stitches one night while improvising tongue in cheek songs about the POE faculty and staff. Peter, the consummate teacher, always giving freely of his time to help, encourage and strengthen a student’s skills.

Within this atmosphere of musical adventure the other teaching artists of the week had 26 kids eager to take in what was being offered to them. Christopher Houlihan, another POE graduate, taught master classes on practice habits and registration. His personal open style resonated with students. Eugenia Sullivan opened the doors to discovering the console. Peter Krasinski tackled improvisation, which many students took to like ducks to water.

## POE REPORT FOR TOA CONTINUED:

Bill Degan, a teacher of physics, took everyone into the world of unequal temperament before visiting Abbey Chapel where students were able to compare the equal tempered Skinner Organ with the Fisk and its unequal temperament. The two chapel organs were first demonstrated by Griffin and Dr Larry Schipull before the students had their own hands on exploration. David Spicer, church musician par excellence, brought home the importance of hymn playing and concluded his presentation with a rousing accompaniment of our national hymn, 'God Of Our Fathers'. Floyd Higgins of Austin Organ Company gave the students a tour of the immense Austin Organ factory from the ground floor to the very top where the voicing rooms are kept. The highlight of Austin tour was the making of molten pipe metal and pouring it out into sheets for the making of pipes by Austin pipe maker, Tony Valdez. This tour was followed by visits to the large impressive Austin Organs at St. Joseph's Cathedral and Trinity College in Hartford.

Three very different and phenomenal evening performances were presented during the POE. On Monday Peter Krasinski gave a talk on the organ and movies followed by a public performance of a live improvised organ accompaniment on the wonderful three manual Austin Organ at St. John's to the epic German expressionist film, Metropolis. On Tuesday, Christa Rakich presented a stunning and captivating program that really explored the tonal assets of the visually stunning and moderately sized two manuals and pedal Richard Fowkes Organ at the Old Brick Church in Deerfield, MA. Her program included two significant pieces by women composers, the Prelude & Fugue in B-flat of Clara Schumann and the Preludium, Partita & Fugue on Jesu, Meine Freude by Margaretha Christina de Jong. Finally, on Wednesday, Christopher Houlihan on the Austin Organ at Trinity College with marimbist, Doug Perry, presented a concert that was so unusual musically and visually that people in the packed Trinity College Chapel were simply mesmerized. This concert was followed by dinner on the lawn outside the chapel while listening to the carillon played by Mathieu Polak of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The closing day had student recitals simultaneously at two locations highlighting the fruits of the week's efforts. Let it be noted that Catherine Lupien, a student with no previous organ experience, played the Variations for Pedals on a Theme by Paganini by George Thalben-Ball while at another concert Miles Ames and Erik Swanson played the Bach d minor toccata while constantly trading places on the bench and still tickling the keys!

Yes, the Springfield Chapter's POE started with an email address, [greatestpoe@aol.com](mailto:greatestpoe@aol.com) and the aspiring organists attending wished the week would never end, but what the guild needs to know is that the future of organ playing based on this POE is in very good hands indeed.

Ladislav Pfeifer  
Springfield POE

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## The month of November...

*A Time of Remembrance of all of the souls passed on...*

*A Special Thank You to All the Veterans who lost their lives for our freedom...*

*A Time of Thanksgiving to God for all that he has blessed us with in our lives...*

**Annual Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**  
Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield, Saturday,  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm. This popular Springfield tradition is  
presented by the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, with  
strings, hand bells,  
and the majestic 1929 Casavant Organ.



# *A Season to Remember*

## **Fall of 2016**

### **Don't run, crawl!!**

Come and enjoy a Veterans Day Organ Crawl of Worcester on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Start your day with a continental second breakfast at St. Michael's Cathedral and visit the three mighty organs in the center of Springfield before heading off to the Organ Capital of New England for a day of fantastic exploration. Worcester certainly is unchallenged in calling herself the Organ Capital of New England. Come find out why and be amazed. This is a joint venture of the Berkshire and Springfield Chapters with Scott Bailey & Larry Picard as chairs.

### **Information for Springfield/Worcester Fall Crawl Friday Nov 11**

Please contact Larry Picard if you plan to go so space can be reserved for lunch at the Oak Barrel restaurant in Worcester! [lpicard@sococh.org](mailto:lpicard@sococh.org) or [413-348-3729](tel:413-348-3729).

**9:00 a.m.** Springfield and Berkshire Chapters meet at St. Michael's Cathedral, 254 State Street, Springfield for continental breakfast.

**9:45** Begin tour of organs at St. Michael's, Christ Church Cathedral and South Congregational, Springfield (all within walking distance).

**11:30** Drive to Oak Barrel restaurant, 229 Grove Street, Worcester, for lunch with Worcester and other chapters. We will try to carpool!

**12:30** Lunch at Oak Barrel [www.OakBarrelTavernWorcester.com](http://www.OakBarrelTavernWorcester.com)

**1:30** First Unitarian, [90 Main St](#) (Aeolian-Skinner) Park at either First U or Wesley Methodist as they are across the street from each other.

Organ & Timpani (20 mins), works by Copland, Strauss, Bach, Hymn; open console. Will Sherwood, host.

**2:30** Wesley United Methodist, [114 Main St](#) (Skinner) Brett Maguire, host.

**4:00** College of the Holy Cross, St Joseph's Chapel, [1 College Street](#) (Taylor & Boody) Park at Holy Cross, Hogan Center, and walk downward to Chapel. Brett Maguire, host.

**5:00** Pakachoag Church, [203 Pakachoag St](#), Auburn (Dobson) Park at Pakachoag, 1 mile down the street from Holy Cross. Trish Snyder, host.

## Spring of 2017

**It may be cold outside**, but a good Singing Experience starting at 10:00 am followed by brunch will warm you up . On Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> Michael Carney and Becky R. Isaacson will chair this vocal training, and anthem reading event at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sumner Ave in Springfield. More details to follow.

**What Nature Destroys, Loving Hands Rebuild, a Members Recital and Dinner** on March 26<sup>th</sup> celebrating the Spirit of Monson after the devastating tornado of June 2012. The First Church of Monson is home to a magnificent 1891 three manual and pedal organ by Johnson & Son of Westfield MA. The Church is planning on having a baked chicken dinner at \$10 a plate starting at 5:00pm followed by the concert at 7:00pm. A free will offering will be taken for the Eva Farr Organ Fund for the preservation of the historic Johnson Organ. It will be a fun and delicious event! Gay Paluch is our host. Anyone interested in performing on this remarkable instrument should please contact Larry Picard at [lpicard@sococh.org](mailto:lpicard@sococh.org)



**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & Closing Sóirée** at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. Enjoy this charming Franklin County setting for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on the evening of June 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by the lively entertainment of Jerry Noble and his jazz buddy, Bob Sparkman on clarinet. Karen Banta is chair for this event with Mary Murrell and Quentin Faulkner as hosts.



Sunday, November 13: The Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus presents "The Voice Out of the Whirlwind," a program of music by Copland, Rachmaninoff, Schubert and more, at Wesley United Methodist, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley. Directed by Jonathan Harvey and accompanied on the organ and piano by Larry Picard. Tickets are \$28, senior/student \$20, children \$7. [www.pvsoc.org](http://www.pvsoc.org).

#### THE ARCHIVE OF RECORDED CHURCH MUSIC

While listening to music late at night on YouTube (I do this a lot), I chanced upon a treasure-trove for people like us. The "Archive of Recorded Church Music" features all of your favorite English choirs, and plenty of obscure ones, too. I discovered it by searching for a particular choral piece. Both their YouTube channel and their website, [www.recordedchurchmusic.org](http://www.recordedchurchmusic.org), are meticulously organized. The description is below.

Karen Banta

**The "Archive of Recorded Church Music" seeks to collect, preserve and catalogue the priceless and unique heritage of recordings from cathedral, church, collegiate and chapel choirs. The very first choir recording in England was issued in 1902, and the Archive, the largest of its kind in the world, contains these very first recordings and continues right through to the present day. In collaboration with the YouTube channel "Archives of Sound", which preserves the magnificent choral legacy of Guildford Cathedral Choir under Barry Rose, we will regularly upload archival recordings from many different choirs, including some outside the UK. One of our specialties will be historic recordings from the BBC "Choral Evensong" series. Visit the Archive's Website or Facebook page for more information. I do hope you enjoy listening and please don't hesitate to contact us if you require further information or have recordings which you think may be of interest.**

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**Sacred Music at the Red Door  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
671 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
860-523-5201/[www.reddoormusic.org](http://www.reddoormusic.org)  
Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons  
and Carols. Free admission, sugg.  
donation \$20. The St. John's Adult  
and Youth Choirs with Scott Lamlein  
as director and Floyd Higgin as or-  
ganist, December 11, 3 p.m.**

## The Organ Academy

One of the stated purposes of the American Guild of organists is " *To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors* ." With a desire to further that goal, the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has established the Organ Academy. Chapter members are able to study with a local teacher, and have the cost of lessons subsidized by the chapter. The current amount available per student is \$250 per year, payable in 10 installments directly to the teacher. For further information and application materials, please contact "Education and Outreach" Martha Sienkiewicz: [martha@sienkiewicz.org](mailto:martha@sienkiewicz.org)

The AGO would like to invite you to a Brunch and Anthem Sing on 1/28 at 10am at Springfield Trinity Church. We will be offering a tasty brunch followed by festive singing and camaraderie. Music packets will be available to participants and the event will only be a small fee. Save the date!

Hampshire Choral Society concert, with the Young People's Chorus. November 20, 3pm, Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke College. Music of Handel, with orchestra, chorus, and soloists, Allan Taylor and K.C. Conlan, directors. Tickets \$15/\$10, at the door.

**On December 11, 2016, Holyoke High School Choirs will present their holiday concert under the direction of Mark Todd. He is currently the Choral Music Department Head of the Holyoke Public School. He has produced numerous musicals and his choirs have performed four times at**

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists  
70th Anniversary**

**Visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org) & "like" us on Facebook!**

**Dear Members:**

**If you have e-mail, please consider receiving the monthly Chiff Chat at your e-mail address. It is easy to access. It never gets lost or misplaced and will put some of your yearly dues to another use. We currently spend approximately \$250 mailing out the monthly Chiff Chat To members over a year. We are very happy to mail a Chiff Chat to Anyone who is not on the internet and needs a hard copy, but if you Are getting a snail mail copy out of force of habit, please consider Instant delivery through e-mail. You can e-mail Lad Pfeifer or Elizabeth Zellmer if you wish to change from snail mail to e-mail.**

**Thank you.**

**Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists  
Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter  
Elizabeth Zellmer, Editor  
601 Northampton Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040**